

Step Therapy and the Consequences of Delays in Cancer Care



This is David.

David has been diagnosed with metastatic prostate cancer. He also has type 2 diabetes that he has a hard time controlling.



David's doctor prescribed **treatment A**.



But David's insurance company has a **step therapy** protocol where he has to try **treatment B** before they will cover **treatment A**.



David's doctor **appealed** to the insurance company to skip **treatment B** because it can increase blood sugar in patients with diabetes, making **treatment A** the better choice for David.



While David waits to hear about the appeal, which could take weeks or months, he has two choices.

He can **wait for the insurance company's decision on treatment A**. But while he waits his **cancer may grow** and impact his **long-term survival**.



Or he can take **treatment B** while he waits. But it might cause his **blood sugar to go up**, which could **cause other problems** that send him to the doctor or hospital.

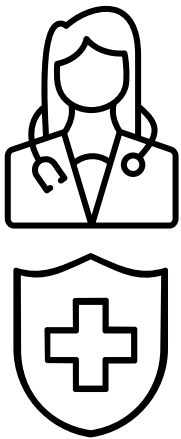


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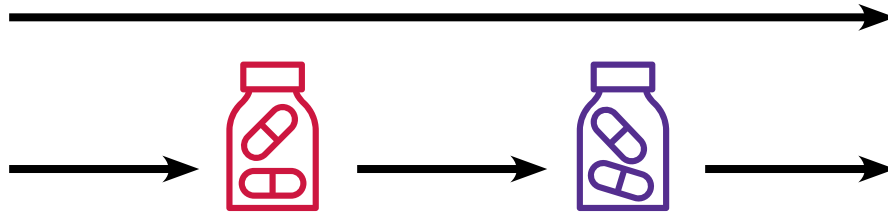


This is Mary.

Mary has been diagnosed with stage II cancer in her left breast. Five years ago she had a similar diagnosis in the right breast.



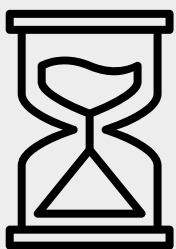
Mary's doctor prescribed **drug A** to prevent the nausea she often has after chemotherapy.



But Mary's insurance company has a **step therapy** protocol where she has to try **drug B** and then **drug C** before she can use **drug A**.



Mary's doctor **appealed** to the insurance company to skip **drug B** and **drug C** because these drugs were not able to control her nausea and vomiting during her earlier breast cancer treatment, making **drug A** the better choice for Mary.



While Mary waits to hear about the appeal, which could take weeks or months, she will most likely have to deal with **nausea** and **vomiting** during her treatment.

This may cause **weakness** and **dehydration**, which could send her to urgent care or the hospital and possibly cause a **delay** of her next chemotherapy treatment.

